

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 7, 9-12, 17 and 19 have been canceled. Claim 8 has been amended. Claims 8, 16 and 18 are currently pending in the application.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 18 is allowed.

Regarding the drawing objection and objection to the specification, please refer to the attached second proposed drawing amendment. It is believed that the attached second proposed drawing amendment overcomes the objections.

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,350,190 to Szigethy in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,810,535 to Fleckstein et al. To establish obviousness of a claimed invention, the prior art references when combined, must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. In addition, there must be some suggestion or motivation to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference (MPEP §706.02(j)).

The combination of Szigethy and Fleckstein et al. does not disclose a fastener part with a concave contact surface area into which contact surface areas of the hooks engage in a connected condition. Webster's New International Dictionary defines concave as "hollowed or rounded inward like the inside of a bowl" or "curving inward" (copy attached). Neither the patent to Fleckstein et al. nor the patent to Szigethy

disclose or suggest a fastener part comprising a concave contact surface area into which contact surface areas of the hooks engage in a connected condition. In addition, in a telephone interview conducted the undersigned on April 10, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the patent to Fleckstein et al. did not disclose a concave contact surface area of the fastener part into which contact surface areas of the hooks engage.

In addition, the combination of the patent to Fleckstein et al. and the patent to Szigethy does not disclose or suggest a fastener part configured integrally with a steering wheel, and fastening arms configured integrally with an inflator mount.

The concave surface of the fastener part in claim 16 gives a better hold to the contact surface areas of the hooks, as compared to a flat surface in the art of record. Thus, claim 16 should be allowable.

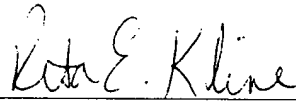
Claim 8 depends from claim 16 and defines over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 16 and for the specific limitations recited therein. The combination of the cited prior art references does not disclose or suggest that the fastening part and the fastening arms comprise ramps corresponding to each other and including all the limitations of claim 16. Thus, claim 8 should be allowable.

Attached is a marked-up version of the amended claims presented in this Amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita E. Kline
Reg. No. 48,855
Customer No. 26,294

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
1111 Leader Building
526 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

8. (Amended) The fastener as set forth in claim 7 16, wherein said fastener part and said fastening arms comprise ramps corresponding to each other.

Webster's
Third
New International
Dictionary
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
UNABRIDGED

A Merriam-Webster

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

*Utilizing all the experience and resources of more than
one hundred years of Merriam-Webster dictionaries*

EDITOR IN CHIEF

PHILIP BABCOCK GOVE, Ph.D.

AND

THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

EDITORIAL STAFF



G. & C. MERRIAM COMPANY, *Publishers*

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

